

the state of affairs to be such perpetually. In course of time the Nambudiri, the Tamil Brahmin, the Nayar, the Ezhuva and the Pulaya all must become one nation. These are perhaps some of the ways of removing these differences and inequalities. My object in tabling this resolution is that our Government which is well known to be a progressive Government, should take the initiative in that matter, namely, by issuing a circular to the subordinates that documents containing objectionable terms should be rejected. There is absolutely no difficulty for that. It is only a lame excuse that the Government has now given and I am sorry to find the Government giving expression to such excuses. I request the House to vote for the resolution unanimously.

Resolution put and negatived.

The following resolution was considered withdrawn as the Member was absent.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—*This Council recommends to take immediate steps for connecting water communication from Cochin to Kunnankulam to facilitate import and export of goods through Cochin Harbour.*

6. Female Government Servants.

Mr. M. K. Raman —Sir, I move the following resolution:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that the rule or convention or understanding that exists in some departments of service to the effect that women who seek Government appointment should be unmarried and should continue to remain so be forthwith abolished."

If the Government should insist upon ladies who are entering Government service to remain unmarried, I think, in justice, they should also insist upon the men who enter service to remain unmarried. Why should this partiality be shown to men? (*Hear, hear.*) (*Laughter.*)

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—On a point of information. May I know whether there is any convention or rule to that effect?

President.—The Government will answer.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I understand that in the Medical Department certain class of Government servants are not allowed to marry and I do not know whether they insist on those who have already married to divorce. If they are married they are simply sent out. I also understand in the Education Department—I do not know whether there is a rule like that—as far as possible they take only unmarried women. They have got, no doubt, an excuse. Married women take leave more often than unmarried women and naturally the service suffers. That is true. But once the Government have entertained the idea of taking into service women all such things which are incidental to women must also be provided for. To insist that

women who enter service should remain unmarried is unnatural and inhuman. In that case, as I said before, it is as well left open to the Government to say that the gentlemen who enter service also should remain unmarried. I do not find any reason why women alone should be asked to remain unmarried. The Government must find some means of providing for the leave arrangements of women. To insist upon the women to remain unmarried, I submit, is not in keeping with civilisation. It is against human nature also.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, I am going to second this resolution and in so doing I am tempted to think that my friend is getting frightened that married people are turned out to remain unmarried. It would be an act of consideration to the mover if the Government give him an assurance that unmarried men will not be refused Government service.

But joking apart, this is a very serious question and there is much to say on both sides. I believe the question has been discussed by the Teachers' association as to the advisability of accepting the nature of this resolution or not. The married women decided that married women should be allowed to continue in service and unmarried women decided that married women should not be allowed to continue in service and that married and unmarried women should be allowed to enter the service. That was the result of voting. That is one argument that could be said in their favour. That is most probably due to partiality of nature. The chances of matrimony are so much reduced and by the operation of this law of compulsion what is lost in one direction is compensated in another direction and by the intellectual capacities they possess. In many European countries where women are drafted into public service and also in some commercial firms, the general rule operates that only unmarried women will be allowed to remain in service. Whenever a woman gets married, she is expected to resign her post and go away. By insisting on a rule like that, it produces serious social consequences. I do not wish to detail them here but it does serious social consequences by compelling them to lead a life of celibacy when they do not wish to do so. That is the position. If a person wants to lead a life of celibacy he has reached a very high stage of evolution. That is a very great person, be it a man or a woman. When you compel a person to lead a life of celibacy the result will be, at least the action of the party concerned will be, of such a nature as to show to the public at least that he or she is leading a life of celibacy. The result has been that such people are resorting to various methods of prevention and we have discussed in this Council that generally

speaking this Council was not in favour of any contraceptive methods. That would be the result of compelling people to lead, as my friend suggested, an unnatural life. It becomes an unnatural life to cease to marry and when you compel one to remain unmarried. From that point of view it is unfair.

When you take a married woman there are other difficulties. It is an enormous expenditure to the State. Here the expenditure is increased because, as has been suggested, the married woman has got responsibilities and duties which an unmarried woman has not. But has she not compensated for the loss sustained by the State by the service rendered by her to the State? She is the mother of the future generation and her contribution to the society and to the nation is much greater than the contribution of the unmarried woman, let her be in education or politics or any other course. Due to economic competition and pressure women are taking to various jobs. But nobody would say that a woman's purpose in life,—I may be called an old-fashioned man—her purpose in life is not to sit at a desk but to toddle a cradle. That is her function. It is to rock a cradle and not to sit at a desk. Therefore, by resorting to this clause, if there is a clause or understanding, you are compelling women not to pursue what is properly belonging to them by nature, and any Government who compels a person to do anything against nature is justly responsible, at least to a portion of the consequences that accrue from their action. Hence I shall be justified in scolding the Government if there is a reduction in population. That is the first consideration that all Governments should see to. Some Governments are spending thousands and millions of money to see that their population is increasing. Fortunately that question has not arisen here. It will be a grave crime if, by any action, the result, direct or indirect, will be a reduction of population especially of that class of population from which the majority of the workers are drawn. There will be inequality in the relative position of the various strata of society and it would be much better to sacrifice a little more rather than resort to this clause for the sake of saving a few thousands of rupees. For these reasons I heartily support the mover of this proposition.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Sir, my amendment is only verbal in character. It is only just to make the expression happier. The amendment is this. For the words "to the effect..... remain so" substitute the following: "discouraging the appointment of married women and the marriage of women already in service." There is no difficulty for the mover to accept this.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—It is all the same.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Yes. I do not even press the amendment.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—Sir, in one of the sittings....

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Before we proceed further let us know whether there is such a convention or not.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—Yes. In one of the sittings of the Council the Member for South Ezhuvay brought a resolution that we ought to institute birth control clinics in our hospitals because our population is increasing. I remember that there was a large body of members who thought that such a thing was highly necessary to check the rapid progress which our State population was making at present. During the last ten years we have practically 25 per cent increase in our population ; so that, as it stands, at present there is no fear of a reduction of population since this restriction as regards marriage exists only with a very small minority in Sirkar service and that is, the nurses attached to the Medical Department. No other woman is precluded from marriage. As regards the nurses I may state that all over the world it is a written as well as unwritten rule not to entertain women, or rather not to allow women in the service to marry. At present even among the nurses we have some married women. We do not hereafter allow the nurses to marry and if any nurse gets herself married she is allowed to give up the service.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Why not insist on lady doctors too ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—The rule in Travancore is that only unmarried girls be taken for training for nurses and they should remain unmarried. After their training they have to execute a bond to the State that they will serve the State for 5 years and if during the period of 5 years they marry, their services will be summarily dispensed with.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Is there any compensation ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—No compensation. And the condition is that her service should be terminated and the stipendiaries will be prepared to refund the stipend received. The same is the condition in British as well as in all European countries.

Nursing as a profession amongst Indian women is of recent origin. It is only very recently that Indian women have taken to this profession and the number of Hindu women is practically very few. As regards the Christians, especially among the Catholics, we know that both among men and women celibacy is common in the religious order. The chief reason why nursing shall be done only till their marriage is that with marriage there is the physiological factor of pregnancy and lactation. A

nurse's duty is rather onerous. Indian women, frail as they are, find it difficult to carry on the profession of nursing and with pregnancy and lactation it is an added burden which makes them thoroughly unfit to carry on their duties. So what is the use of keeping a person who is unfit to do her duties? By allowing her to marry we are only making her unfit for her work. When she thinks she has a chance of marrying, the best thing for the State as well as for herself is to quit the service. We have instances of a few married girls who are nurses in the establishment. And now what is happening? Almost once in 18 months you find 10 months have been spent in the period of pregnancy and the rest 8 months are spent for suckling her baby. In the staff of the Trichur hospital and the Ernakulam hospital we have got a few married women. And this has been the experience. They are not able to do the work of nursing patients properly when they are feeding their babies. Then again there is the great strain. Then there is the maternity leave, the sick leave and the privilege leave and all that. I think it is a very salutary rule to insist that amongst the nursing profession no married women are entertained. On these grounds Government oppose the resolution.

Resolution put and negatived.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—A poll, Sir.

The House divided:—Ayes 10; Noes 14 and Neutrals 4

Ayes.

- 1 Mr. K. Ayyappan
- 2 „ Eachara Menon
- 3 Dr. A. G. Menon
- 4 Mr. Joseph Pettah
- 5 „ T. K. Nayar
- 6 „ A. I. Mani
- 7 „ T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar
- 8 „ M. K. Raman
- 9 Dr. A. R. Menon
- 10 Mr. K. P. Vallon

Noes.

- 1 Mr. K. Achyuta Menon
- 2 „ M. P. Cherian
- 3 „ E. Ikkanda Warriar
- 4 „ U. Kandar Menon
- 5 „ F. Krishna Menon
- 6 „ C. J. Mathew
- 7 „ M. D. Narayana Ayyar
- 8 „ T. Narayana Menon
- 9 „ P. Nilakanta Menon
- 10 Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao
- 11 Rama Varmha Tampuran
- 12 Mr. P. V. Raphael
- 13 „ P. V. Subramania Ayyar
- 14 Mrs. Swaris

Neutrals.

- 1 Mr. M. A. Chakko
- 2 „ C. N. Ittiravi Nambudiri
- 3 „ Paul Mampilli
- 4 „ A. Sankara Poduval

As the mover was absent the following resolutions were considered withdrawn.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—*This Council recommends to take immediate steps for introducing responsible Government in the State.*

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—*This Council requests the Government to form a Council of 3 ministers enjoying the confidence of the Legislature to carry on the administration of the State in co-operation with the Diwan.*

The House rose for the day at 5. p. m.

C. J. MATHEW,
Secretary to the Council.